

FCC MAIL ROOM

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822
NOVEMBER 9, 1998

FCC COMMISSIONERS
WASHINGTON, DC

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RE-1998 BIENNIAL REGULATORY
REVIEW ADMT., PART 97 of the
COMMISSIONERS AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
RULES FCC WT DOCKET 98-143

DEAR COMMISSIONERS:

I HOLD A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE, HAVING BEEN IN AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1952. I HAVE ENJOYED THE PRIVILEGES OF BEING A LICENSEE FOR YEARS, AND I AM CERTAIN OVER 116,000 OTHER GENERAL CLASS LICENSEES AGREE WITH ME. WE, GENERAL CLASS LICENSEES HAVE ENJOYED THE OPERATING PRIVILEGES ON THE VARIOUS RADIO FREQUENCIES BANDS ALLOCATED BY YOU FCC COMMISSIONERS, FOR WHICH WE ARE EVER SO GRATEFUL.

NOW, THE ARRL GROUP IS PETITIONING TO YOU FCC COMMISSIONERS, TO RESTRUCTURE THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE CLASSES BY TRYING TO ELIMINATE THE GENERAL CLASS SERVICE, WHICH HAD BEEN, AND STILL IS, THE BACK-BONE OF THE AMATEUR CLASS. THIS SOUNDS OUTRAGEOUS TO US IN THE GENERAL CLASS.

I, AND THOUSANDS OF GENERAL CLASS LICENSEES URGE YOU WISE AND CONSIDERATE FCC COMMISSIONERS TO PLEASE LEAVE THE GENERAL CLASS STAND AS IS.

SUGGESTION FOR RESTRUCTURING, IF ANY, TO YOU FCC COMMISSIONERS, WOULD BE TO RETAIN THE THREE ORIGINAL CLASSES, NAMELY--

A--EXTRA CLASS--20WPM CODE PROFICIENCY WITH FULL OPERATIONAL AND BAND/FREQ PRIVILEGES SUCH AS--CW, AM/FM, SSB, TV, COMPUTER: BE CLASSIFIED AS LICENSE EXAMINERS TO LOWER CLASS RADIO AMATEURS, OFFICIAL OBSERVERS IN ALL OF THE FCC ALLOCATED AMATEUR BAND/FREQS.

B--GENERAL CLASS--13WPM CODE PROFICIENCY WITH FULL OPERATIONAL PRIVILEGES SUCH AS--CW, AM/FM, SSB; NO TV OR COMPUTER, AND WITH LIMITED BAND/FREQ PRIVILEGES.

C--NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS--5WPM FOR OPERATORS-TO-BE, WITH LIMITED OPERATIONAL AND BAND/FREQ PRIVILEGES; CW, AM/FM, SSB.

IN THIS MODERN COMPUTER AGE, CODE PROFICIENCY CLASSES SHOULD BE RETAINED. WITH QUALIFICATION, ADVANCED CLASS LICENSEES SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO THE EXTRA CLASS.

IN THE "POWER OPERATION" CATEGORY--EXTRA CLASS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 1,000 WATTS DC INPUT OR 2,000 WATTS PEP INPUT. THE GENERAL CLASS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 250 WATTS DC INPUT OR 500 WATTS PEP INPUT. NOVICE/TECH CLASS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 50 WATTS DC INPUT OR 100 WATTS PEP INPUT.

SO, FCC COMMISSIONERS, PLEASE RETAIN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES--THE GENERAL CLASS.

THANK YOU KINDLY, FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE FCC COMMISSION.

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VERY TRULY YOURS
GENERAL CLASS LICENSEE--KH5AKK *Ryan H. Richards*